
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN JULY 1997

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate increased 9% in July 1997 compared with that of the previous month and was 23% more than in July 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,250 metric tons at the beginning of 1997 and 9,660 metric tons at the end of July 1997.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in the previous and current months. Also included are trade data for the previous 2 months. During the current month, Platt's

Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.934 per kilogram (\$4.506 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

For the week ending September 15, 1997, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.479 per kilogram (\$4.300 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.794 per kilogram (\$5.350 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1996 p/	1997		
		June r/	July	Year to date
Production	56,000	4,390	4,800	36,100
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	16,100	943	1,070	7,720
Export	19,700	1,600	1,430	11,800

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1996 p/	1997		
		June	July	Year to date
Gross production	46,300	2,380	2,340	26,100
Internal consumption 2/	23,900	1,620	1,570	13,200
Gross shipments	24,100	2,010	1,950	15,400

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/ IN 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
June:						
Steel:						
Carbon	42,800	27,700	--	--	3,190	73,700
High-strength low-alloy	37,800	9,290	--	--	--	47,100
Stainless and heat-resisting	252,000	23,300	--	--	4,700	280,000
Full alloy	201,000	178,000	--	--	2,330	381,000
Tool	95,000	6,920	--	--	2,310	104,000
Total	629,000	246,000	--	--	12,500	887,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,670	54,500	--	--	763	56,900
Superalloys	W	W	--	(3/)	74,500	74,500
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	285 r/	285
Other alloys 5/	--	W	--	(4/)	6,670 r/	6,670
Mill products made from metal powder 6/	--	--	--	--	134,000	134,000
Cemented carbides and related products 7/	--	--	--	--	12	12
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	963	--	--	963
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	14,900	92,200
Other 8/	--	--	--	--	2,660	2,660
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,100	11,100
Other	89,200	23,800	75,900	--	--	189,000
Grand total	797,000	324,000	76,900	--	258,000	1,460,000
Stocks, June 30,1997	576,000	205,000	11,100	45,200	813,000	1,650,000
July:						
Steel:						
Carbon	53,100	W	--	--	3,190	56,200
High-strength low-alloy	51,000	9,900	--	--	--	60,900
Stainless and heat-resisting	240,000	24,300	--	--	4,700	269,000
Full alloy	163,000	167,000	--	--	2,330	332,000
Tool	112,000	11,900	--	--	2,310	126,000
Total	619,000	213,000	--	--	12,500	844,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,670	25,700	--	--	763	28,100
Superalloys	W	20,900	--	(3/)	107,000	128,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	820	820
Other alloys 5/	--	176	--	(4/)	6,150	6,330
Mill products made from metal powder 6/	--	--	--	--	199,000	199,000
Cemented carbides and related products 7/	--	--	--	--	15	15
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	712	--	--	712
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	14,900	92,200
Other 8/	W	--	--	--	2,660	2,660
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	12,200	12,200
Other	92,200	32,300	75,600	--	--	200,000
Grand total	790,000	292,000	76,300	--	356,000	1,510,000
Stocks, July 31,1997	584,000	235,000	11,100	34,700	814,000	1,680,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Superalloys" of the "Other" category.

4/ Included in "Other alloys" of the "Other" category.

5/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

6/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

7/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

8/ Includes ground coat, glass, silicone, electroplating, and drier in paint or related uses.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		May	June	Year to date
Australia	60,900	5,530	16,400	52,300
Belgium	12,400,000	1,670,000	1,580,000	9,300,000
Brazil	20,400	--	32,100	32,400
Canada	268,000	37,700	51,400	224,000
Chile	6,990,000	425,000	358,000	3,100,000
China	1,290,000	--	--	282,000
France	5,620	60	83	143
Germany	505,000	--	--	343,000
India	58,600	--	--	--
Italy	384,000	--	19,000	156,000
Japan	5,140,000	574,000	415,000	3,450,000
Korea, Republic of	10,200	--	--	--
Mexico	5,500,000	463,000	515,000	2,290,000
Netherlands	5,890,000	1,780,000	1,120,000	10,200,000
Spain	19,900	36,800	--	65,600
Sweden	473,000	99,000	78,700	457,000
United Kingdom	6,010,000	1,130,000	133,000	3,120,000
Other	--	--	--	9,540
Total	45,000,000	6,220,000	4,310,000	33,100,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		May	June	Year to date
Australia	--	273	273	546
Canada	252,000	41,600	39,400	219,000
China	--	--	--	130
Italy	--	--	--	3,170
Japan	117,000	4,510	5,630	23,000
Korea, Republic of	1,910	953	953	1,970
Malaysia	37,200	--	--	--
Mexico	117,000	5,130	15,800	71,400
Singapore	53,900	--	--	--
Spain	1,160	--	--	--
Taiwan	--	1,970	1,040	6,560
Venezuela	1,090	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--
Total	581,000	54,500	63,000	326,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1996			1997		
	January-December			January-June		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,090,000	5,460,000	\$41,300,000	4,090,000	2,540,000	\$24,800,000
Ore and concentrates other	35,600	21,100	173,000	1,070,000	564,000	4,180,000
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,160,000	--	8,850,000	907,000	--	7,150,000
Molybdates of ammonium	665,000	368,000	5,360,000	450,000	226,000	3,590,000
Molybdates (all others)	82,500	36,400	506,000	107,000	82,600	669,000
Molybdenum orange	1,840,000	--	5,710,000	811,000	--	2,730,000
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,870,000	4,960,000	55,100,000	2,640,000	1,650,000	17,500,000
Molybdenum powders	125,000	110,000	3,470,000	50,900	44,100	1,730,000
Molybdenum unwrought	91,100	84,400	2,380,000	235,000	221,000	2,870,000
Molybdenum waste and scrap	693,000	640,000	9,720,000	272,000	266,000	4,390,000
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	1,990	--	320,000	1,340	--	180,000
Molybdenum other	3,870	--	1,060,000	3,530	--	556,000
Total	20,700,000	11,700,000	134,000,000	10,600,000	5,600,000	70,400,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.